

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: TAKAHASHI et al.

FILED: July 16, 2003

FOR: BUFFER CIRCUIT, BUFFER TREE, AND SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

DOCKET: NEC NEG-298

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

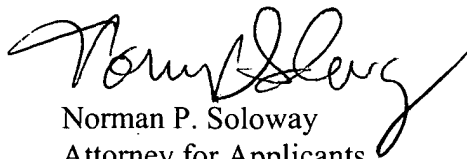
Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including a copy of the reference listed therein, which was considered prior to the initial filing, and is discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over this reference.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)

NEC NEG-298

Application Number

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI et al.

Filing Date

July 16, 2003

Group Art Unit

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
		08-321768	03.12.1996	JAPAN (w/Abstract)	H03K	19/0175		✓

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and no considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.